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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A device for bracing the pelvic region of a patient, the device including:
 - 5 a) a plurality of straps for wrapping around the pelvic region of a patient, the straps being arranged in a side-by-side relationship and interconnected to each adjacent strap at one or more points to restrict relative movement of the straps at the or each point of
10 interconnection, wherein when positioned on the patient, one of the straps may be an upper strap covering the upper pelvic region and adjoining lower abdominal region of a patient and the other strap or one of the other straps may be a lower strap covering the lower pelvic region and
15 adjoining crutch region of the patient; and
b) fastening means for holding the straps wrapped around the pelvic region of the patient,
whereby in use, the fastening means of the upper strap can be released to provide access to the lower abdominal
20 region, or the fastening means of the lower strap can be released to provide access to the crutch region of the patient.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device
25 includes 4 to 8 straps of which 2 to 4 straps may be required to brace the patient's pelvis.
3. The device according to claim 2, wherein when 3 or
4 straps are required to brace the patient's pelvis,
30 straps interposed between the upper and lower straps can remain in position on the patient while the upper and/or lower strap is released to facilitate surgical procedures.
4. The device according to any one of the preceding
35 claims, wherein each strap is at least 4cm wide.
5. The device according to any one of the preceding

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claims, wherein each strap is between 9 and 12cm wide.

6. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the straps are interconnected by a
5 resiliently flexible member and that the straps extend from the member in parallel relationship.

7. The device according to claim 6, wherein the resiliently flexible member interconnect the straps at a
10 point along their length that, in use, can be wrapped around the pelvic region of a patient.

8. The device according to claim 5, wherein the straps are further interconnected by releasable
15 interconnecting means that interconnect adjacent straps at a spacing from the resiliently flexible member.

9. The device according to claim 8, wherein the releasable interconnecting means is in the form of flaps
20 of co-operating hook and loop fasteners that extend from adjacent straps and that the flaps overlap in fastening engagement.

10. The device according to claim 8 or 9, wherein at
25 least two sets of releasable interconnecting means are spaced along the straps.

11. The device according to any one of claims 8 to 10, whereby in use the releasable interconnecting means may
30 interconnect the straps wrapped around the patient.

12. The device according to any one of claims 8 to 11, whereby in use the releasable interconnecting means of the straps wrapped around the patient are released from the
35 releasable interconnecting means of adjacent unused straps.

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13. The device according to any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the straps are substantially equal in length and that the resiliently flexible member is located toward an end of the straps and that the each strap is
5 interconnected by the releasable interconnecting means to adjacent straps at 2 or more positions along the length of the straps.

14. The device according to any one of the preceding
10 claims, wherein the fastening means enables the length of each strap wrapped around the patient to be adjusted, thereby allowing the device to be fitted to patients of varying sizes and allowing pressure applied by each strap to the patient to be adjusted.

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15. The device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein on each strap the fastening means includes a first attachment means and a plurality of co-operating second attachment means spaced along the length of the
20 strap which can be coupled together so that each strap can form a loop of varying sizes.

16. The device according to claim 14, wherein the first attachment means is in the form of a flexible tab
25 and that the second attachment means is in the form of one or more openings through which the tab can be threaded and fastened.

17. The device according to claim 15, wherein each tab
30 includes sections of hook or loop fasteners and that the openings are rings projecting from the straps, whereby in use, the tab can be threaded through a ring and folded on itself so that the hook and loop fasteners engage.